

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, November 17, 2017  
Lee County Administration East Building  
2201 Second Street, Room 118  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239-244-2220



## MEETING MINUTES

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Williams at 9:01 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, Larry Kiker, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Jim Burch, John Carioscia and Rick Williams; City of Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr. and Mike Flanders; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember/MPO Board Vice-Chair Tracey Gore; City of Sanibel Vice Mayor Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Councilmember Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Councilmember William Ribble.

Others in attendance included L. K. Nandam, Laura Herrscher, Bessie Reina, D'Juan Harris, Lawrence Massey, and Zachary Burch with FDOT; Dave Loveland with Lee County; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney; Steve Myers with LeeTran; Derek Faulkner with Lee County Port Authority; Sean Corey with IT Services of Lee County; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; a representative of Lee County Schools; a Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputy; and Gary Nelson with Kitson and Partners.

### **Agenda Item #1 - Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) Report**

Mr. Don Scott reported that at the last BPCC meeting, held on October 24, 2017, the BPCC was presented the FDOT Draft Work Program, discussed the SUN Trail candidate projects, and reviewed the FDOT safety performance measures.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report**

Mr. Scott reported that at the last CAC meeting, held on November 2, 2017, the CAC was presented the FDOT Draft Work Program, provided a recommendation on the SR 78 Sidewalk/Pathway alternatives, recommended project priorities for FY 2024 SUN Trail funds, and discussed the FDOT Safety Performance Measures.

### **Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items**

Mr. Scott said this item was originally on the Joint Charlotte agenda and should have been omitted when that meeting was cancelled. He said there were no consent agenda items on this meeting's agenda.

### **Agenda Item #4 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item**

Chair Williams stated public comments will be taken at each agenda item.

### **Public Hearing Items**

### **Agenda Item #5 - Approval of the Amendments to the FY 2017/2018 through FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the addition of the design phase for the Trafalgar sidewalk project and funding for bus replacements in FY 2018.

Mr. Scott reviewed the project information listed below:

FPN Number	Federal Project Description	Phase Group	Amount	Funding Type	Year	Comments
441478-1	Trafalgar Elementary	Preliminary Engineering	\$1,000	SA	2018	Recently added project
			\$133,041	SR2T		
441897-1	Lee Tran Bus Purchase	Capital Grant	\$1,500,000	SU	2018	Recently added project
			\$1,500,000	FTAT		

Chair Williams asked if there were any public comments on this public hearing item. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Kiker moved to approve this agenda item. Commissioner Pendergrass seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All committee members voted in favor. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item #6 - Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program and Planning Funds Agreement**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review and approve amendments to the FY 2017/2018 UPWP to add the revised task and budget sheets to match the FY 2017/2018 FTA 5305 funding allocation, to add the increased Federal Planning funds allocation, and to amend the MPO Planning Agreement to match the grant amount. He reviewed the proposed amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO's budget) to match the 5305 funding allocations for FY 2017/2018 and to include and submit the FTA 5305 grant application and certification sheets. He also stated, the UPWP is being revised to add an additional \$23,608 in federal planning funds that matches the current FY 2017/2018 allocation of \$949,628 and amending the MPO Planning agreement to match this increase. He stated the UPWP revision would add funds for the Bicycle Pedestrian Action Plan update and for MPO software. He noted the TAC and CAC unanimously approved this item at their respective October 5<sup>th</sup> meetings.

Chair Williams asked if there were any public comments on this public hearing item. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Kiker moved to approve this agenda item. Councilmember Burch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Mann was not present at the time of the vote. All present committee members voted in favor. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**Agenda Item #7 - Presentation, Review and Comment on the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program**

FDOT's Laura Herrscher, on behalf of L. K. Nandam, presented the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2019 through 2023. She introduced Mr. D'Juan Harris and Ms. Bessie Reina. Ms. Reina explained the cycle was accelerated and comments should be submitted by November 20, 2017. Ms. Herrscher then started the video presentation on the Draft Work Program. The program may be viewed in its entirety at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UbXJU2By8c>

Commissioner Frank Mann left at 9:15 a.m.

Ms. Herrscher asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Pendergrass thanked FDOT.

Councilmember Gore arrived at 9:18 a.m.

Mr. Scott reviewed the adopted and funded priorities, the Equity/Fair Share Analysis, and the MPO's recommendations for FDOT including funding of the number one priority - the Big Carlos Bridge project. Councilmember Flanders asked about Lee County in comparison to Polk County. Mr. Scott said Polk County is over their fair share at about 100% and Lee County is less than our fair share. Mr. Scott added Polk County does have a lot more state road mileage. He also noted that Lee County's population is slightly higher than Polk.

#### **Agenda Item #8 - \*Recommend Project Priorities for FY 2024 Sun Trail Funding**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of SUN Trail project priorities for potential FY 2023/2024 funding. He stated FDOT is currently soliciting applications for SUN Trail funds for FY 2023/24. He stated the MPO will be submitting three applications:

1. *Rails to Trails Feasibility Study on the Seminole Gulf Right of Way*
2. *Kismet Parkway Multiuse Trail from Del Prado Boulevard to NE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue*
3. *Feasibility Study for a Pathway along CR 865 (Estero Boulevard) from Big Carlos Bridge to Hickory Boulevard*

The MPO Board discussed the proposed projects, the paths the projects follow, and the difference between priority and opportunity trails. Mr. Gogoi reviewed the SUN Trail map with the Board. Ms. Persides Zambrano discussed the Kismet projects and SUN Trail funding received. Councilmember Gore mentioned the residents near the Big Carlos Bridge would like to see it repaired, not replaced. She asked if anything had changed since Mr. Scott presented to Fort Myers Beach Town Council. Mr. Gogoi replied no. A brief discussion followed on the Coastal Loop that runs through Fort Myers Beach.

**Councilmember Burch moved to approve this agenda item. Mayor Sawicki seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #9 - Review of the Joint Resolution Regarding the SR 31 State Infrastructure Bank Loan Backstop**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item and said it would not be an action item as there were revisions from FDOT and we meet again before Charlotte meets. He stated that this is Joint Resolution providing an additional backstop for FDOT for the SR 31 State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan that the Babcock Ranch Independent Special District is using for the widening of SR 31. He further explained the Babcock Ranch Independent Special District (ISD) is seeking a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to advance the construction of SR 31 from SR 78 in Lee County to the Babcock Ranch main entrance in Charlotte County. He noted the Babcock Ranch ISD collects transportation fees for the repayment of the SIB loan and is also committed to levy a special assessment to serve as the backstop to the loan payments if the collected transportation fees are not sufficient to cover the loan payments for any of the fiscal year's payments. He continued, FDOT is also requiring an additional backstop to the SIB loan as the Babcock Ranch ISD does not have a long governmental history. To finalize the loan, FDOT is looking for a Joint Resolution from both the Lee County and Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPOs so that if the Babcock Ranch ISD fails and cannot meet the loan repayment requirements, their District Dedicated Revenue (DDR) funds, that can only be used on projects on the State Road system, may be used to meet the repayment requirements. Mr. Scott handed out the updated version of the resolution that was recently received from FDOT legal staff. He noted this item will come back through the MPO at the next meeting for a vote. He mentioned there was a representative from Babcock that was present if there were any questions. Commissioner Pendergrass stated this project would help east Lee County residents and asked if there were committed funds. Mr. Scott replied no. Councilmember Burch questioned the SIB loan. Mr. Scott further explained the cash flow side. There was a brief discussion on the SR 31 bridge project. Councilmember Gore asked where the money would come from. Mr. Scott explained that Lee County is currently low on DDR funds so this would make it more even, if that happened. Mr. Scott added the road project would help with drainage and resurfacing. Mr. Nandam noted the loan would be dispersed in installments not the total amount of \$31 million all at once.

#### **Agenda Item #10 - Update on the Autonomous and Electric Vehicle Legislative Items**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a follow up to the Joint Collier MPO Board meeting discussion on autonomous and electric vehicle legislative items. He commented that MPOs have had recent discussions and

presentations regarding the impact of electric and autonomous vehicles and how we are planning to address these in the update of our Long Range Transportation Plans. He presented some of the most recent legislative proposals that are being put forward on these issues including SB 384 that includes asking the Florida Transportation Commission to report on the revenue impact of electric vehicles when the threshold reaches a certain percentage of registered vehicles, HB 338, and SB 1885. He also reviewed USDOT's driverless vehicle guidelines. He mentioned a study from FDOT that will be out next year. Councilmember Flanders commented that 2% seemed low and asked who made that determination. Mr. Scott responded that it could take a while to reach 2% and several other states have already applied a registration fee to all electric vehicles. Councilmember Flanders that even though it is done in other states, does not mean it is the best option for Florida. Mr. Scott agreed, adding that they are looking at the data and the research, and it could take a while to go through the process. Councilmember Burch referred to the first bill discussed in the presentation and noted it was great to look at all options to make the process seamless.

## **Other Business**

### **Agenda Item #11 -Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

### **Agenda Item #12 - LeeTran Report**

Mr. Steve Myers with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He stated there was a decline in ridership for FY 2016/2017 of approximately 200,000 passenger trips. He said the total ridership for last year was about 3.1 million trips, a decline of around 6%. He noted Hurricane Irma in September was a contributing factor, responsible for between 70,000 and 80,000 trips lost. He also mentioned the Beach Park and Ride should be completed soon with a potential ribbon cutting in December. He thanked FDOT for their assistance in the completion of this project.

### **Agenda #13 - TD Report**

Mr. Scott gave the TD report that Mr. Alan Mandell of GoodWheels had emailed earlier in the week. Mr. Scott reported the following information on behalf of GoodWheels:

During Hurricane Irma Good Wheels:

- Provided 24/7 shuttle service before, during, and for two weeks after the storm for 300 out of state utility workers for LCEC
- Worked in conjunction with the Hendry County Emergency Operations Center transporting special needs people to shelters. Good Wheels has a contract with Hendry County EOC and should have one with Lee County. Good Wheels is requesting reimbursement through FEMA.
- Responded to requests for organizations from State Representatives in Lee and Collier for transportation due to storm
- Provided transportation to dialysis centers in Lee County immediately after the storm as centers with power and water opened.
- Besides Good Wheels Insurance claims for storm damage, Good Wheels has submitted to the forensic accountants hired by its insurance company a claim of approximately \$250,000 for business interruption insurance.

FDOT Grants

- Good Wheels, on November 14, 2017, received the JPA for route scheduling software ( \$225,516 ) which was approved in last year's State budget

Good Wheels should have access to its 2016-17 FTA Operating grant for Lee County of \$175,000 on January 1, 2018.

### **Agenda Item #14 - FDOT Report**

Mr. L. K. Nandam, FDOT's District One Secretary, introduced the new interim SWAO director, Mr. Lawrence Massey. Mr. Nandam added Mr. Massey has been with FDOT for over 26 years. Mr. Nandam also thanked those involved in the recent District One Context Classification Workshop. He mentioned the League of American Cyclists had rated Florida #14.

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn commented that the workshop was well done.

### **Agenda Item #15 – Announcements**

Councilmember Burch announced this would be his last meeting and thanked everyone.

Commissioner Pendergrass thanked Mayor Sawicki and Councilmember Burch for their service.

Mayor Sawicki stated it was an honor to serve. She also commented that she appreciated those that had mentored her.

### **Agenda Item #16 - Information and Distribution Items**

Mr. Scott handed out the latest version of the Joint Resolution for the SR 31 Infrastructure Bank Loan Backstop, Agenda Item 9.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.**

^Roll Call Vote \*Action Items \*May Require Action

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